

REMARKS

Claims 8, 9 and 11-14 remain pending in the application. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Claims 8-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Adams et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,099,497). Independent claim 8 was amended to more succinctly claim the invention. The Examiner asserts that the cited references teaches advancing a catheter and stent through the vascular system to a position proximal of the bifurcation. Applicants respectfully traverse. The referenced Fig. 9 clearly shows the catheter and stent as having been advanced to a position **beyond** the bifurcation, both along the main vessel as well as into the side branch. The claims as amended now unequivocally call for the stent to be advanced to a position wherein no portion is distal to the opening. Moreover, the claims now require the balloons to be positioned side by side adjacent to the distal end of the stent. While Fig. 9 shows a catheter with balloons of the same length and Fig. 17 shows a catheter with balloons in a side by side configuration near their proximal ends, it is respectfully submitted that neither enables a method which provides for the shaping of a stent so as to treat a bifurcation by stenting the proximal portion of main vessel and the opening of a side branch vessel. Since the cited reference does not address problem of effecting such treatment, it is respectfully submitted that a solution to such problem, let alone the particular solution being claimed, cannot reasonably be considered obvious.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, applicants earnestly believe the application to now be in condition for allowance and respectfully request that it be passed to issue.

Please charge or credit Deposit Account No. 06-2425 for any additional fees in connection with this preliminary amendment.

Respectfully submitted,
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